

New Life Presbyterian Church

Embrace God's Beauty.
Extend God's Love.

December 15, 2024



Welcome to New Life Presbyterian Church

Dear Visitor,

Welcome! It is a joy and privilege to gather this morning to worship God together. Here at New Life, we are a small part of the worldwide, multi-ethnic, multi-generational, multi-cultural body of Christ. Although we are Presbyterian and Reformed, our identity is found not in what makes us distinct, but in what makes us united: we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is not only our Maker; He is our Savior. If you have put your hope and trust in Him, we welcome you as a brother or sister. It is in Him that we have New Life!

If you are here this morning and do not know what you think about Jesus, or about the claims of the Bible, we are delighted that you have chosen to join us for the morning. We hope and trust that you will experience a warm welcome, regardless of your religious convictions. We are a community of those who have experienced the embrace of God, through Jesus Christ. It is our goal to show that love to all who are around us. Please know that I personally would welcome your thoughts and perspectives on anything you observe this morning.

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all!

Joyfully,

Pastor Erik Swanson

P.S. There is a staffed nursery, off the fellowship hall, for children ages 0-4.

Please be aware that we livestream our services.

Worshiping God

December 15, 2024

Reflection:

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- The Prophet Isaiah

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Erik Swanson

Prelude

Call to Worship – *from Philippians 4:4-7*

Joe Heidler

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Praise

He Shall Reign Forevermore

Verse 1

In the bleak mid-winter
All creation groans
For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne

Chorus

(And) He shall reign forevermore
forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore
forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore
forevermore

Verse 2

If I were a wise man
I would travel far
If I were a shepherd
I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart

Chorus

(And) He shall reign forevermore
forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore
forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore
forevermore

Bridge

Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah

Chorus

(And) He shall reign forevermore
forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore
forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore
forevermore

"He Shall Reign Forevermore" words and music by Chris Tomlin, Matt Maher
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Of the Father's Love Begotten

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan
 2. At His Word the earth was fram - èd; He com - mand - ed, it
 3. Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin, called
 4. This is He whom an - cient se - ers long fore - told in one

to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean in their
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom - ised

Source, the End - ing, He. Of the things that are, that
 three - fold or - der one. All that grows be - neath the
 Sav - ior of our race; and the babe, the world's Re -
 in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the na - tions'

have _____ been, and that fu - ture years shall see:
 shin - ing of the moon and burn - ing sun,
 deem - er first re - vealed His sa - cred face:
 Sav - ior— let cre - a - tion praise its Lord

ev - er - more and ev - er - more, _____

Verses 5 and 6 on next page

5. O ye heights of heaven adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him,
And extol our God and King!
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert sing,
Evermore and evermore!

6. Christ, to Thee with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!

Third Sunday of Advent

The Borch Family

Prayer

We beg you to listen to our prayers, O Lord,
and by the grace of your coming enlighten our darkened minds:
You who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Three candles are lit.

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

Prayer of Response

**All: O Key of David, Jesus Christ,
the gates of heaven open at your command,
come and show us the way to salvation.**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come _____ and cheer our spir - its by Thine
 3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from _____ on high, and or - der all things,
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

5 Am Em/B Bm Em Am Em/G D/F# Em Bm C D Em



Is - ra - el; That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds _____ of night, and
 far _____ and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart _____ and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill

CHORUS

10 D G C G/B D G D Em Bm G



-til the Son of God _____ ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 death's dark shad - ows put _____ to flight.
 cause us in her ways _____ to go.
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

15 C G/B D Em D/F# G C Am Em/B Bm Em



-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Prayers of the People

Ministry Moment

Offering

The offering allows friends and members of our church to express their faith in God's Word, and to support the extension of that Word in our community and in the world.

Special Music: Advent Hymn

Verse 1

Christ whose glory fills the skies
Christ the everlasting light
Son of righteousness arise
And triumph o'er these chains of mine

Verse 2

Come thou long awaited One
In the fullness of Your love
And loose this heart
 bound up by shame
And I will never be the same

Chorus

So here I wait in hope of You
All my soul's longing
 through and through
Dayspring from on high be near
And Daystar in my heart appear

Verse 3

Dark and cheerless is the morn
Until Your love in me is born
And joyless is the evening song
Until Emmanuel has come

Chorus

So here I wait in hope of You
All my soul's longing through and through
Dayspring from on high be near
And Daystar in my heart appear
(REPEAT)

"Advent Hymn" words and music by Christy Nockels
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Doxology:

**All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Scripture – Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25

^{1:26} Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”...

^{2:18} Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,
“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Sermon: "Marriage and Family"

Pastor Erik Swanson

Series: *Foundations in Genesis*

Sermon Notes

Celebration of the LORD's Supper

New Life Church invites all baptized Christians who are members of Christ's church to join us in this feast of bread and wine. The inner circle of cups contains red wine and the outer circle of cups contains white grape juice. If you are unable to consume wheat, gluten-free crackers are available.

Prayer

Words of Institution – *from 1 Corinthians 11*

Minister: *Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.*

All: **Christ has died.**
 Christ has risen.
 Christ will come again.

Communing Together

The elders and deacons will serve you in your seats. Please hold the elements so that we can partake together after all have been served. Use the extra time during communion for prayer and reflection.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King: let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy: while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

The Sending

Minister: Go in peace, to love and serve the LORD.
All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

This Week at New Life

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. 12/15	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/15	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/15	6:00 pm	Community Groups	Members' Homes
W. 12/18	9:00 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study	Classroom 1
W. 12/18	7:00 pm	Music Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
W. 12/18	7:00 pm	Youth Discipleship	Classroom 1
Th. 12/19	11:00 am	Prayer Meeting	Classroom 1
Sun. 12/22	9:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages	Classrooms
Sun. 12/22	10:00 am	Corporate Worship Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 12/22	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering	Swanson Home

Church Financial Summary

Category	Budget	Actual
Year to Date 2024	\$328,488.16	\$371,598.75
Week of 12/8/24	\$6,703.84	\$6,497.30

Announcements

- **Advent and Christmas Music:** Have you ever wished you knew the songs we sing each week in worship a little better? Well, here is your chance! There is now a playlist of many of the songs we will sing to the Lord this Advent and Christmas on New Life's YouTube channel. Just go to New Life's YouTube channel (@newlifepresbyterianchurch2087), click on "Playlists", and open "Songs of Worship for Advent and Christmas--New Life Presbyterian Church". "Let every heart prepare Him room!"
- **Christmas Eve Service:** Join us **Tues. Dec. 24** for a traditional service of lessons, carols, and candle lighting at 6:30pm on Christmas eve.
- **Moms+:** We are on break for the holidays and will resume on **Wed. Jan. 8**. Contact Joy Swanson or the office with any questions.
- **Congregational Meeting on Sun. Jan. 19:** Please mark your calendars for a congregational meeting on **Sun. Jan. 19**. The meeting will be at 11:30am in the sanctuary. This annual meeting will cover three matters: a look back at 2024, a look ahead to 2025, and a presentation of the 2025 budget. As part of the budget, the congregation will deliberate and vote on a proposed change in the pastor's terms of call. All are invited to attend; only members may deliberate and vote.
- **Men's Retreat:** Men (and older sons), mark your calendars for a men's retreat the weekend of **Fri. Jan. 31 – Sun. Feb. 2**. After work, travel to Camp Hebron near Halifax for a weekend of teaching, worship, fellowship, and activities. Final cost will depend on the number of attendees; approximate cost is \$80 per person. Contact Pastor Erik for more information and to sign up.
- **Women's Winter Book Club:** This winter we will be reading *Captive in Iran: A Remarkable True Story of Hope and Triumph amid the Horror of Tehran's Brutal Evin Prison* by Maryam Rostampour and Marziyeh Amirizadeh. Read at your own pace, then join us for dinner and a discussion in **late February or early March** (exact date TBD). Contact Connie Kay or the office with any questions.

Groups for Fellowship and Growth

Christian Education: Youth and Children's classes: Pre-K through 1st meets in classroom 5, 2nd-4th meets in classroom 4, 5-8th meets in classroom 3, and 9-12th meets in classroom 1. **Two adult classes this fall:** one studying 1 Samuel and meeting in the Aquarium room and the other studying the book *Biblical Critical Theory* and meeting in Classroom 2.

Women's Bible Study: Please contact Marlene Spark or the office for details on our upcoming spring study.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Interested in discussing the upcoming sermon text? Join us at New Life in Classroom 1 at 9am.

Moms+: We are on break for the holidays and will resume on **Wed. Jan. 8**. Contact Joy Swanson or the office with any questions.

Men's Group: Meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 7-8am in the fellowship hall.

Youth Group: Please contact the church office for information.

Prayer Small Group: We have two opportunities: The evening group meets on the first **Wednesday** of every month at 7pm. Contact Sherry Rishel or the office. The daytime group meets every **Thursday** (except the Thursday that follows the Wednesday evening prayer group) at 11am. Contact Sue Rothermel or the office.

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF): Contact Will Pope or the office with questions.

Discipleship Groups: Same-gender groups meet to encourage each other to follow Jesus as we walk with each other. Please contact Pastor Erik to join a group.

Community Groups: Designed to be a microcosm of the church, this is an intergenerational home-gathering for fellowship, food, bible study, (singing), and prayer. We meet on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of the month from 6-7:30pm. See Pastor Erik if you would like to join a group.